

Lower Suwannee

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations 2013-2014

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge is made up of Nearly 53,000 acres along the Suwannee River in Dixie and Levy Counties. More than 100 miles of roads provide either vehicle or foot/bicycle access to many habitat types open to hunting. The Refuge provides a variety of public hunting opportunities.

All general Refuge regulations apply unless specifically addressed in this leaflet. Restrictions and designations on the map in this leaflet also apply. Please note that forest management activities including prescribed burns and logging operations may occur at any time during the year. Annual plans will be posted at Refuge check stations. The Refuge is not responsible for damage to tree stands. The Refuge reserves the right to temporarily close these areas for management reasons without prior notification.

The annual Hunter Working Group meeting will be held at Refuge Headquarters on the first Saturday in May, at 10 am. Please contact the refuge if you are interested in attending.

The following regulations supplement Florida State hunting regulations and the general regulations governing hunting on Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

**Lower Suwannee
National Wildlife Refuge**
16450 NW 31 Place
Chiefland, FL 32626
352/493 0238
<http://www.fws.gov/lowersuwannee/>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

June 2013



Permit Requirements

All hunters must possess a refuge hunting permit and a State of Florida Hunting License. This brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as the permit for all hunts. State Wildlife Management Area stamps *are not* required. Archery, muzzleloader, and turkey stamps *are required* for appropriate hunts. State and Federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt waterfowl.

Successful hunters are required to report their bag by completing a Bag Report Form provided at each check stand, or by calling the Refuge at 352/493 0238. No personal information is necessary. These reports allow us to better determine population health, numbers, and stability.

General Hunting Regulations

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations.

A photo ID must be in possession at all times while on Refuge property.

All motorized land vehicles are restricted to designated roads shown on the map.

Vehicles must be parked in a manner which does not block roads or gates.

Use of all-terrain vehicles (three-wheeler, four-wheeler, etc.) is prohibited.

Hunters (including all persons accompanying hunters) must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange visible above the waistline while hunting during all Refuge deer and hog gun hunts, including Muzzleloader, General Gun, Hog, and the Family Hunts.

In addition to State hunter education requirements, hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult 18 years of age or older. Parent or adult guardians, 18 and older, are responsible for supervising hunters under the age of 16 and must remain within sight and normal voice contact of the youth hunter. During Waterfowl, Small Game, and Family Hunts, one adult may supervise no more than two youth hunters. During Archery, Muzzleloader, General Gun, and Spring Turkey, the adult may supervise no more than one youth hunter.

Dogs may only be used as an aid to taking raccoon during the raccoon night-hunting season and for waterfowl season.

Please report your game by completing and returning a harvest report card or by calling the Refuge Headquarters at 352/493 0238.

Permit

Name (please print) _____

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations.

Signature (Permits are not transferable)

This permit must be completed to be valid.
It must be carried by the hunter during the hunts.

It is **NOT** VALID for the Limited Deer or hog quota hunts
(see enclosed explanation)

Except as otherwise specified, dogs must be kept on a leash and under the control of the owner at all times.

Hunters using the Refuge are subject to inspection of licenses, permits, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles and their contents, during compliance checks by Refuge or State officers.

Temporary tree stands may be left on the Refuge starting on the last weekend of August and must be removed by the last day of each specific hunting season. Tree stands are also allowed during Small Game and Family Hunts Season. Stands may be erected on or after the Saturday prior to the hunts and must be removed by the last day of the hunts.

Reflective markers are permitted, but the markers must be removed at the end of the Refuge deer hunting season.

As hunting is a Refuge management activity, hunters may enter 1 and 1/2 hours before sunrise and must be out of the woods by 1 and 1/2 hours after legal sunset.

Prohibited Actions

- All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a guided hunt are prohibited.
- Target practice is prohibited.
- The use of organized drives for taking or attempting to take game is prohibited.
- Marking any tree, or other Refuge feature with carving, flagging, litter, paint or blaze is prohibited.
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited while hunting.
- Camping, fires, littering, and horses are prohibited.
- Taking of frogs and turtles is prohibited.
- Cutting trees, removing wood or other plant matter from the Refuge is prohibited.
- Hunting from or within 150 feet of Refuge roads open to public vehicle travel is prohibited.
- Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been inserted is prohibited.

■ Field dressing or discarding an animal carcass or parts thereof within 1000 feet of any developed public recreation area, game check station, gate, or within 100 feet of a road or trail, open to the public, is prohibited. Dumping of game carcasses is prohibited.

■ Construction of permanent blinds or stands is prohibited.

■ The placing of or hunting with the aid of bait, salt, oil or ingestible attractant is prohibited.

Specific Hunt Regulations

State bag limits and firearms regulations apply unless otherwise listed. In designated Archery Only Areas (see map changes), only bows are allowed. Crossbows are prohibited except with a State issued Disabled Persons Crossbow Permit. Wild hogs, coyote and beaver may be taken during Archery, Muzzleloader, General Gun, Small Game, and Family Hunt seasons.

Waterfowl

State waterfowl season; ducks and coots only. Decoys and boats must be removed daily. Hunters must use and be in possession of shells containing non-toxic shot only.

Archery

State season, September 14 – October 13, 2013; legal to take any deer (except spotted fawns), wild hogs, gray squirrel, rabbit, armadillo, opossum, and raccoon.

Muzzleloader

State season, October 19-27, 2013; muzzleloader firearms only; legal to take deer with one or more antler(s) at least five inches in length visible above the hairline and wild hogs (no bag or size limit on hogs).

General Gun

November 2-17, 2013; legal to take deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline and wild hogs (no size or bag limit on hogs).

Family Hunt

One adult may supervise no more than 2 youth - less than 16 years old.

December 14 – 22, 2013; legal to take deer and hogs (no size or bag limit); tree stands may be installed and must be removed by the end of the Family Hunt season.

100 doe tags will be available; first come, first served. Participants may pick up doe tags from the Refuge Headquarters during the week prior to the family hunt (December 9-13, from 7:30 am - 4 pm.) Call the Refuge for alternate arrangements at: 352/493 0238, x 223.

State-issued identification is required to sign for a doe tag. One tag will be issued to each Family Hunt party; either youth or adult may use the tag. Tags must be returned to the Refuge office or dropped into the specified drop box located at each official check station no later than the last day of the Family Hunt.

Hog Hunt

January 2-4, 11-13, and 17-19, 2014.

Friday - Sunday. Legal to take hogs (no size or bag limit). Tree stands are permitted; they may be installed on or after the Saturday prior to the hunt and must be removed at the close of the Small Game season.

Small Game

January 25 - March 2, 2014; legal to take wild hog (no bag or size limit), gray squirrel, armadillo, opossum, rabbit and raccoon. Only .17, .22, and .22 magnum caliber rimfire firearms or smaller, bows or shotguns with shot no larger than #4 birdshot may be possessed.

Raccoon/Opossum

February 5 - 28, 2014. Night hunting, Wednesday through Saturday nights from legal sunset until legal sunrise, during the month of February. State regulations, weapons, and ammunition requirements apply. Limit 2 raccoons per night.

Youth Spring Gobbler Hunt

(Each adult may supervise no more than one youth hunter; the adult may not hunt. Only youth less than 16 may hunt and must carry the firearm)

March 8-9, 2014. Shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1 pm. Bearded turkeys only. Shotguns with shot no larger than size 2 common shot, and bow only may be used. All applicable State and general Refuge regulations apply.

Turkey (Spring Season)

March 15-April 13, 2014. **Bearded turkeys only.** Shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1 pm. Shotguns with shot no larger than size 2 common shot and bow only.

